

# A PROCLAMATION,

## Regulating the Prices of Ale and Drinking-beer, and appointing Bear and Meal to be sold by Weight and not by Measure.



HARLES by the grace of GOD, King of Great Britain, France and Ireland, Defender of the Faith; To Our Lovits,

Arms, Our Sheriffs in that part, conjunctly and severally, specially constitute, Greeting. Forasmuch as the Lords of Our Privy Council, Wars and Vintners, for Ale and drinking Beer, at their pleasure, without observing any just proportion betwixt the same and the price of the Ordain, that when the price of the boll of the best rough Bear, of Linlithgow measure, is six pounds Scots; that the price of the best Ale and best drinking Beer be sold at twenty pence Scots; and when the price of the best rough Bear is at ten pound Scots the boll, the pint of the best Ale and Drinking-beer is to be sold at two shilling Scots, with the addition of two pennies Scots on the pint of each of these prices, for the ordinary Excise of all Landward Towns and Parochs, and of other two pennies on the pint of Ale and drinking Beer, brewed, sold, brought into, and made use of within the Burgh of Edinburgh, during the time contained in the imposition granted by Us, in behalf of the said Burgh, and in case the price of the rough Bear shall fall below six pounds, or rise above ten pound Scots; That then the price of Ale and drinking Beer should rise and fall accordingly; And for the better Execution thereof, did appoint the Sheriffs, Justices of Peace, or other Magistrates, or any Heretors in the several Shires, to enquire after, and delate the transgressors within Burgh to the Magistrates; And these within Burgh to enquire after and delate the transgressors within the Shire, and ordaining Sheriffs and Magistrates to appoint Tasters and Cuniters without and within Burgh, to see that the Ale and Drinking-beer be sufficient, according to the said prices; and discharged the selling of any Ale or Drinking-beer at any dearer rates, than these aforesaid, upon whatsoever colour or pretext, under the particular penalties and certifications contained in the said Proclamation.

And We, and Our Estates of Parliament, considering the great necessity there was of restraining the Brewers and Vintners from exacting of exorbitant prices, for Ale and Drinking-beer, and to regulate the same thereafter, did by the fifteenth Act of the first Session of Our second Parliament, Authorise the Lords of Our Privy Council, to regulate and set down the prices thereof as they should find just and reasonable; and to emit such Acts, Orders and Directions in relation to the prices of Ale and Drinking-beer, and to inflict such Censures, pains and penalties upon the contraveners thereof, as they should think fit: And in case after settling of the said prices by Our Privy Council, any Brewers should cease and give over their brewing, or venting of Ale and Beer, It is declared that they shall not be allowed to brew, or vent any Ale or Drinking-beer for the space of one year thereafter, and be further lyable to such pains and penalties, as Our Council should think fit to inflict. And We, with advice of Our Privy Council, did, by two several Proclamations, one of the seventh of December, 1676: and another of the last of July, 1677. upon the considerations therein exprest, renew the said Proclamation in the year 1666. Regulating the prices of Ale and Drinking-beer, and Ordained the same to be put to further execution; and repealed an Act of the twenty two day of February, 1666. Allowing the Brewars to brew double Ale, at double prices, above these mentioned in the said Proclamation: And it is thereby declared, in case any Brewar should (after regulation of the prices, as is above set down) desert brewing, they should be lyable for the Excise, according to their former brewing, for the space of six months thereafter, and should be proceeded against, and punished conform to the said Act of Parliament. And it being most just and necessary that a due proportion should be observed betwixt the price of the boll of Bear, and the Ale and Drinking beer; and that Brewars and Vintners should not be permitted to exact from Our Leidges exorbitant prices for Ale and Drinking-beer, far exceeding the said proportion. And We, and the Lords of Our Privy Council, having found that the inequality of the values of the boll of Bear, in the several Shires of the Kingdom, renders it difficult and unequal to appoint one price of drink effeaird to the measure of the boll of Bear: And finding that the just method of bringing different measures to equality, can only be done by weight, that so the weight may controul the measure: And having appointed a Committee of Council, for adjusting the Linlithgow measure, to an equal standard of weight, who reported that they had caused weigh the Bear of several different Shires, and that a mean proportion betwixt best and worst, is that new Bear should be sold by the weigh of fifteen Stone, Troas weight, till the fifteenth of April inclusive next after its growth, and at fourteen Stone after the said day, each Stone consisting of sixteen pounds, and each pound of sixteen ounces, all Troas weight; And that the old bear should be sold at fourteen Stone, Troas weight; and old bear to be understood, that which is to be sold after the said fifteenth of April, the next year after its growth. Therefore We, with advice aforesaid, Do hereby ordain and appoint, that in time coming the Bear shall be sold by the owners thereof to the Merchant Malt-man and Brewar, by weight, and not by measure. And Ordains the Magistrats of Linlithgow, to prepare and make the Standard Weights of Brass, containing fifteen stone Troas Weight, as the weigh for the new Bear, and another Standard of fourteen Stone, Troas Weight, for the weigh of the old Bear, and that betwixt and the fifteenth day of January next to come; Ordaining, that in the mean time, the Troas weight of every Town be used for sale of Victual; and the Magistrats of the several Burghs, and the Sheriff, Stewarts, Bailies of Regalities and Barronies on this side of the River of Tay, are to have the saids weights for weighing of bear, betwixt and the first day of March next; and these one the other side, betwixt and the first day of May thereafter, the saids Magistrats, Sheriffs, Stewarts and Bailies using their own Troas weight in the mean time, until the said respective days: And who are hereby ordained to see that all Bear shall be sold by the saids weights, and not by measure: And that in place of a boll measure, the same be sold and received, at the weigh of eight Stone, Troas weight: And the saids Magistrats of Linlithgow, are to make a Standard conform: and the Magistrats of the several Burghs, and the Sheriffs, Stewarts, Bailies of Regalities and Baronies, are ordained to provide themselves therewith, betwixt and the respective days aforesaid, and to cause buy and sell by the same and not by measure, as they will be answerable; and the weight, commonly called the Trone-weight, and all other weights except the Troas-weight aforesaid, is hereby straitly prohibited and discharged to be made use of, in the case of the said Victual, under the penalty of half a Crown, for each boll shall be otherwise bought or sold, to be payed by the persons guilty, buyer or seller, to the informer, besides what other punishment Our Council shall think fit to inflict. It is hereby declared that these Presents shall be but prejudice to Hereitors, or Masters, to receive in their Rents either by weight or measure, as they shall think fit, but that they shall be obliged to sell out to the Merchant, Malt-man, or Brewar, their Bear and Meal by the weights aforesaid, and not by measure, under the penalty aforesaid: And for adequating the prices of the Ale and Drinking-beer, to the price of the said weigh of Bear; We, with advice aforesaid, do hereby ordain, that when the weigh of fifteen Stone of new Bear, or fourteen Stone of old Bear, Troas-weight (determined to be old or new, in manner aforesaid) is sold for six pounds Scots, that the pint of the best Ale; and best Drinking-beer shall be sold at twelve pennies Scots; that when the price of the weigh of Bear shall be eight pounds Scots, the pint of best Ale, and best Drinking-beer, shall be sold at twenty pennies Scots; and when the weigh of Bear is sold at ten pounds Scots, the pint of best Ale, and best Drinking-beer is to be sold at two shilling Scots, with the addition of two pennies Scots on the pint of each of these prices, for the ordinary Excise of all Towns and Landward Parochs, and of other two pennies Scots of the pint of Ale and Drinking-beer, brewed, sold, brought into and made use of within the Burgh of Edinburgh, during the time contained in the Imposition granted in behalf of the said Burgh; and in case the price of the weigh of Bear shall fall below six pounds, or rise above ten pounds Scots, then the price of the Ale and Drinking-beer is to rise and fall accordingly: and for the better execution thereof, We, with advice aforesaid, do hereby appoint the Sheriff, Justices of Peace, or other Magistrates, or any Heretor within the several Shires, to enquire after, and delate the transgressors within Burgh to the Magistrates, and those within Burgh to enquire after and delate the transgressors within the Shire: and ordaining the saids Sheriffs and Magistrates to appoint Tasters and Cuniters, without and within Burghs, to see that the Ale and Drinking-beer be sufficient, according to the saids prices, discharging the selling of any Ale or Drinking-beer, at any dearer rates than these aforesaid, upon whatsoever colour or pretext, under the particular penalties and certifications in the aforesaid Act of Parliament, and former Proclamations; Requiring hereby all Brewars, Vintners, and other persons concerned; to give due and punctual obedience hereto, in all points, as they will be answerable, and under the pains and penalties contain'd in the Acts of Parliament. And for the more ready and exact execution of this Our Proclamation, We do hereby Order and Command, all Brewars within the Town and Shire of Edinburgh, the Shires of Haddington and Linlithgow, whose survey Rolls are above two bolls brewing ilk week, betwixt and the fifteenth day of January next, To set sufficient Caution, acted in the Books of Our Privy Council, for payment of Our Annuity and Excize: and for observing and obeying this Our Proclamation, under the pains contained in the said Act of Parliament, and discharges them of any further brewing after the said day, except they find the said Caution, and have a Licence granted to them from Our Council for brewing thereafter; and declares them further liable to the certification contained in the said Act of Parliament, in case of failzie, and that all Brewars within the said Town and three Shires aforesaid, whose survey Rolls are at or under two bolls weekly, set the like Caution and receive their Licence from any three of the Commissioners of Excise, of the saids three Shires and Town, to be nominate by the Lords of Our Privy Council, or by any Committee appointed by them, betwixt and the said day, and that under the pains and certifications aforesaid. And We ordain the whole Brewars within the several Burghs-royal to set Caution, to the effect aforesaid, in presence of one of Our Privy Council, or any other person to be named by Our Council, for that effect, betwixt and the first day of February next, and to desist from brewing, except they set the said Caution, and obtain Licence for brewing thereafter: As also, that all Brewars of all sorts in the several Shires of the Kingdom, find the like Caution in presence of three Commissioners of Excise, of the respective Shires (who are appointed to be a Quorum to that effect) betwixt and the said first day of February next: which three Commissioners shall be nominate by the major part of the Commissioners, who shall be present at their first meeting, without respect to any Quorum. And the saids Brewars are hereby discharged to brew any thereafter, until they find the said Caution, and obtain a Licence for brewing, from the saids three Commissioners; which Licence, so to be purchased, are to be given to the persons concerned, gratis, and the Commissioners of Excise and Justices of Peace in the several Shires, are to be careful that every one do their duty as is committed to them. And it is hereby declared, that the Malt is not to be sold by weight, but by measure, as formerly, and that the Malt-man shall only have ten shilling Scots for the making of a weigh of Bear; and that the Commissioners of Excise, and Justices of Peace in the several Shires, be careful to see the same performed accordingly: and in case any Brewar shall buy Malt from any Malt-man, they shall be obliged to sell their Ale and Drinking-beer made of the said Malt, at the prices aforesaid respective, with consideration and respect had to the difference betwixt the price of the boll of Malt and the weigh of Bear, conform to the Acts of Parliament. And whereas the making Malt of Oats and Pease, doth hinder the consumption of the Bear, and lessens the quantities of Oats and Pease, to the prejudice of Tradf-men and Labourers, and the Poorer sort of the people; all Malt-men and Brewars are hereby discharged to make use of the same for Malt, in all time coming, as they will be answerable. And being informed of several late exactions and abuses committed by Tasters, we are resolved to take particular notice thereof, and to make an equality and proportion





HARLES by the grace of GOD, King of Great Britain, France and Ireland, Defender of the Faith; To Our Lovits,

Macers, or Messengers at

Arms, Our Sheriffs in that part, conjunctly and severally, specially constitute, Greeting. Forasmuch as the Lords of Our Privy Council, in consideration of the exorbitant prices taken by Brewers and Vintners, for Ale and drinking Beer; at their pleasure, without observing any just proportion betwixt the same and the price of the boll of Bear, did by their Act and Proclamation, dated the eighteenth of January, 1666, Ordain, that when the price of the boll of the best rough Bear, of Linlithgow measure, is six pounds Scots; that the price of the best Ale and Drinking-beer, shall be sold at twelve pennes Scots; that when the price of the best rough Bear shall be eight pound Scots the boll, the pint of best Ale, and best drinking Beer be sold at twenty pennes Scots; and when the price of the best rough Bear is at ten pound Scots the boll, the pint of the best Ale and Drinking-beer is to be sold at twenty shilling Scots, with the addition of two pennes Scots on the pint of each of these prices, for the ordinary Excise of all Landward Towns and Parochs, and of other two pennes on the pint of Ale and drinking Beer, brewed, sold, brought into, and made use of within the Burgh of Edinburgh, during the time contained in the imposition granted by Us, in behalf of the said Burgh, and in case the price of the rough Bear should fall below six pounds, or rise above ten pound Scots; That then the price of Ale and drinking Beer should rise and fall accordingly; And for the better Execution thereof, did appoint the Sheriffs, Justices of Peace, or other Magistrates, or any Heretors in the several Shires, to enquire after, and delate the transgressors, within Burgh to the Magistrates; And these within Burgh to enquire after, and delate the transgressors within the Shire, and ordaining Sheriffs and Magistrates to appoint Tasters and Cunstlers without and within Burgh, to see that the Ale and Drinking-beer be sufficient, according to the said prices; and discharged the selling of

any Ale or Drinking-beer at any dearer rates, than these aforesaid, upon whatsoever colour or pretext, under the particular penalties and certifications contained in the said Proclamation; And We, and Our Estates of Parliament, considering the great necessity there was of restraining the Brewers and Vintners from exacting of exorbitant prices, for Ale and Drinking-beer, and to regulate the same thereafter, did by the fifteenth Act of the first Session of Our second Parliament, Authorise the Lords of Our Privy Council, to regulate and set down the prices thereof as they should find just and reasonable; and to emit such Acts, Orders and Directions in relation to the prices of Ale and Drinking-beer, and to inflict such Censures, pains and penalties upon the contraveners thereof, as they should think fit: And in case after settling of the said prices by Our Privy Council, any Brewers should cease and give over their brewing, or venting of Ale and Beer, It is declared that they shall not be allowed to brew, or vent any Ale or Drinking-beer for the space of one year thereafter, and be further lyable to such pains and penalties, as Our Council should think fit to inflict. And We, with advice of Our Privy Council, did, by two several Proclamations, one of the seventh of December, 1676; and another of the last of July, 1677. upon the considerations therein exprest, renew the said Proclamation in the year 1666. Regulating the prices of Ale and Drinking-beer, and Ordained the same to be put to further execution; and repealed an Act of the twenty two day of February, 1666. Allowing the Brewers to brew double Ale, at double prices, above these mentioned in the said Proclamation: And it is hereby declared, in case any Brewer should (after regulation of the prices, as is above set down) desert brewing, they should be lyable for the Excise, according to their former brewing, for the space of six months thereafter, and should be proceeded against, and punished conform to the said Act of Parliament. And it being most just and necessary that a due proportion should be observed betwixt the price of the boll of Bear, and the Ale and Drinking beer; and that Brewers and Vintners should not be permitted to exact from Our Leidges exorbitant prices for Ale and Drinking-beer, far exceeding the said proportion. And We, and the Lords of Our Privy Council, having found that the inequality of the values of the boll of Bear, in the several Shires of the Kingdom, renders it difficult and unequal to appoint one price of drink effeaird to the measure of the boll of Bear: And finding that the just method of bringing different measures to equality, can only be done by weight, that so the weight may controul the measure: And having appointed a Committee of Council, for adjusting the Linlithgow measure, to an equal standard of weight, who reported that they had caused weigh the Bear of several different Shires, and that a mean proportion betwixt best and worst, is that new Bear should be sold by the weigh of fifteen Stone, Troas weight, till the fifteenth of April inclusive next after its growth, and at fourteen Stone after the said day, each Stone consisting of sixteen pounds, and each pound of sixteen ounces, all Troas weight: And that the old bear should be sold at fourteen Stone, Troas weight, and old bear to be understood that which is to be sold after the said fifteenth of April, the next year after its growth. Therefore We, with advice aforesaid, Do hereby ordain and appoint, that in time coming the Bear shall be sold by the owners thereof to the Merchant Malt-man and Brewar, by weight, and not by measure. And Ordains the Magistrates of Linlithgow, to prepare and make the Standard Weights of Brass, containing fifteen stone Troas Weight, as the weigh for the new Bear, and another Standard of fourteen Stone, Troas Weight, for the weigh of the old Bear, and that betwixt and the fifteenth day of January next to come; Ordaining, that in the mean time, the Troas weight of every Town be used for sale of Victual, and the Magistrates of the several Burghs, and the Sheriff, Stewarts, Bailies of Regalities and Baronies on this side of the River of Tay, are to have the saids weights for weighing of bear, betwixt and the first day of March next; and these one the other side, betwixt and the first day of May thereafter, the saids Magistrates, Sheriffs, Stewarts and Bailies using their own Troas weight in the mean time, until the said respective days: And who are hereby ordained to see that all Bear shall be sold by the saids weights, and not by measure, and that in place of a boll measure, the same be sold and received, at the weigh of eight Stone, Troas weight: And the saids Magistrates of Linlithgow, are to make a Standard conform: and the Magistrates of the several Burghs, and the Sheriffs, Stewarts, Bailies of Regalities and Baronies, are ordained to provide themselves therewith, betwixt and the respective days aforesaid, and to cause buy and sell by the same and not by measure, as they will be answerable, and the weight, commonly called the Trone-weight, and all other weights except the Troas-weight aforesaid, is hereby straitly prohibited and discharged to be made use of, in the case of the said Victual, under the penalty of half a Crown, for each boll shall be otherwise bought or sold, to be payed by the persons guilty, buyer or seller, to the informer, besides what other punishment Our Council shall think fit to inflict. It is hereby declared that these Presents shall be but prejudice to Hereitors, or Masters, to receive in their Rents either by weight or measure, as they shall think fit, but that they shall be obliged to sell out to the Merchant, Malt-man, or Brewar, their Bear and Meal by the weighs aforesaid, and not by measure, under the penalty aforesaid: And for adequating the prices of the Ale and Drinking-beer, to the price of the said weigh of Bear; We, with advice aforesaid, do hereby ordain, that when the weigh of fifteen Stone of new Bear, or fourteen Stone of old Bear, Troas-weight (determined to be old or new, in manner aforesaid) is sold for six pounds Scots, that the pint of the best Ale; and best Drinking-beer shall be sold at twelve pennes Scots; that when the price of the weigh of Bear shall be eight pounds Scots, the pint of best Ale, and best Drinking-beer, shall be sold at twenty pennes Scots; and when the weigh of Bear is sold at ten pounds Scots, the pint of best Ale, and best Drinking-beer is to be sold at two shilling Scots, with the addition of two pennes Scots on the pint of each of these prices, for the ordinary Excise of all Towns and Landward Parochs, and of other two pennes Scots of the pint of Ale and Drinking-beer, brewed, sold, brought into and made use of within the Burgh of Edinburgh, during the time contained in the Imposition granted in behalf of the said Burgh; and in case the price of the weigh of Bear shall fall below six pounds, or rise above ten pounds Scots, then the price of the Ale and Drinking-beer is to rise and fall accordingly: and for the better execution thereof, We, with advice aforesaid, do hereby appoint the Sheriffs, Justices of Peace, or other Magistrates, or any Heretor within the several Shires, to enquire after, and delate the transgressors within Burgh to the Magistrates, and those within Burgh to enquire after and delate the transgressors within the Shire: and ordaining the saids Sheriffs and Magistrates to appoint Tasters and Cunstlers, without and within Burghs, to see that the Ale and Drinking-beer be sufficient, according to the saids prices, discharging the selling of any Ale or Drinking-beer, at any dearer rates than these aforesaid, upon whatsoever colour or pretext, under the particular penalties and certifications in the aforesaid Act of Parliament, and former Proclamations; Requiring hereby all Brewers, Vintners, and other persons concerned; to give due and punctual obedience hereto, in all points, as they will be answerable, and under the pains and penalties contain'd in the Acts of Parliament. And for the moreready and exact execution of this Our Proclamation, We do hereby Order and Command, all Brewers within the Town and Shire of Edinburgh, the Shires of Haddington and Linlithgow, whose survey Rolls are above two bolls brewing ilk week, betwixt and the fifteenth day of January next, To set sufficient Caution, acted in the Books of Our Privy Council, for payment of Our Annuity and Excize: and for observing and obeying this Our Proclamation, under the pains contained in the said Act of Parliament, and discharges them of any further brewing after the said day, except they find the said Caution, and have a Licence granted to them from Our Council for brewing thereafter; and declares them further liable to the certification contained in the said Act of Parliament, in case of failzie, and that all Brewers within the said Town and three Shires aforesaid, whose survey Rolls are at or under two bolls weekly, set the like Caution and receive their Licence from any three of the Commissioners of Excise, of the saids three Shires and Town, to be nominate by the Lords of Our Privy Council, or by any Committee appointed by them, betwixt and the said day, and that under the pains and certifications aforesaid. And We ordain the whole Brewers within the several Burghs-royal to set Caution, to the effect aforesaid, in presence of one of Our Privy Council, or any other person to be named by Our Council, for that effect, betwixt and the first day of February next, and to desist from brewing, except they set the said Caution, and obtain Licence for brewing thereafter: As also, that all Brewers of all sorts in the several Shires of the Kingdom, find the like Caution in presence of three Commissioners of Excise, of the respective Shires (who are appointed to be a Quorum to that effect) betwixt and the said first day of February next: which three Commissioners shall be nominate by the major part of the Commissioners, who shall be present at their first meeting, without respect to any Quorum. And the saids Brewers are hereby discharged to brew any thereafter, until they find the said Caution, and obtain a Licence for brewing, from the saids three Commissioners; which Licence, so to be purchased, are to be given to the persons concerned, Gratis, and the Commissioners of Excise and Justices of Peace in the several Shires, are to be careful that every one do their duty as is committed to them. And it is hereby declared, that the Malt is not to be sold by weight, but by measure, as formerly, and that the Malt-man shall only have ten shilling Scots for the making of a weigh of Bear; and that the Commissioners of Excise, and Justices of Peace in the several Shires, be careful to see the same performed accordingly; and in case any Brewer shall buy Malt from any Malt-man, they shall be obliged to sell their Ale and Drinking-beer made of the said Malt, at the prices aforesaid respective, with consideration and respect had to the difference betwixt the price of the boll of Malt and the weigh of Bear, conform to the Acts of Parliament. And whereas the making Malt of Oats and Pease, doth hinder the consumption of the Bear, and lessens the quantities of Oats and Pease, to the prejudice of Tradf-men and Labourers, and the Poorer sort of the people; all Malt-men and Brewers are hereby discharged to make use of the same for Malt, in all time coming, as they will be answerable. And being informed of several late exactions and abuses committed by Tapsters, we are resolved to take particular notice thereof, and to make an equality and proportion betwixt the Brewar and the Tapster: and to the effect, Our resolutions in the premisses, may receive timely and due execution: The Lords of Our Privy Council have determined, to appoint a Committee of their own number to meet and sit both in time of Session and Vacancy, Ordaining hereby this Our Proclamation to begin and take effect, as to all places on this side of the River of Tay, from and after the fifteen day of January next; and all places beyond the same, to the North water, betwixt and the first day of February thereafter; and all places beyond the said Water, and other places of the Kingdom, from and after the fifteenth day of February next. OUR Will is herefore, and We charge you straitly and Command, that incontinent, these Our Letters seen, ye pass to the Mercat Cross of Edinburgh, and remnant Head-burghs of the several Shires of this Kingdom, and misses, that all Our Lieges, and others concerned may have notice thereof. Given under Our Signet, at Edinburgh, the twenty third day of December, One thousand six hundred

Per actum Dominorum Secreti Concilii,

WIL. PATERSON Cl. Sti. Confilii.